MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA – Commercial red meat production during June 2005 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was down 2 percent from June 2004 but up 4 percent from May 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 389,000 pounds live weight, up 11 percent from June 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,066 pounds, was up 6 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter 99,000 pounds live weight, down 22 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 218 pounds, was down 18 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES-Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.96 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in June 2004.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 2 percent from June 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 1 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 11 percent from June 2004. The average live weight was 31 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, 1 percent above June 2004. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was down 1 percent from June 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 222,900 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 4 pounds from June a year ago.

January to June 2005 commercial red meat production was 22.2 billion pounds, down slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

June 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. June 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

June Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during June 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 61 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2005 averaged 341 million, down slightly from a year earlier. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,151 eggs, up 1 percent from June 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2005, totaled 340 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.59 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on

July 1, 2005, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 8 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2005 totaled 34.5 million, down 8 percent from June 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.0 million on July 1, 2005, down 7 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 184,000 during June 2005, down 13 percent from June 2004.

Broiler - Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2005 totaled 796 million, up 1 percent from June 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on July 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.11 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2005, up 3 percent from June 2004

AUGUST CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- **Tobacco** production is forecast at 850,000 pounds, down 50 percent from the 2004 crop. The area harvested is expected to total 500 acres, down 800 acres from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, the average yield per acre is forecast at 1,700 pounds, up 300 pounds from 2004.

All Other Hay production is forecast at 918,000 tons, down 4 percent from 2004. The area harvested is expected to total 540,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2004. Average yield per acre is forecast at 1.7 tons, down 0.1 ton from 2004.

Based on August 1 conditions, **apple** production is forecast at 88 million pounds, up 9 percent or 7 million pounds from 2004. Peach production of 5,500 tons is carried forward from the July forecast.

UNITED STATES WITH 2004 COMPARISONS

– Corn for grain production - 10.3 billion bushels, down 12 percent.
– Corn yield - 139.2 bushels per acre, down 21.2 bushels.
– Oats production – 127.8 million bushels, up 10 percent.
– Winter wheat production - 1.52 billion bushels, up 1 percent.
– Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay production – 73.8 million tons, down 2 percent.
– Other hay production – 76.1 million tons, down 8 percent.
– Apple production - 9.84 billion pounds, down 6 percent.
– Peach production (Including Clingstone) – 1.23 million tons, down 6 percent.
– Peach production (Excluding Clingstone) – 703.9 thousand tons, down 8 percent.
– All tobacco production – 677.1 million pounds, down 23 percent.
– Burley tobacco production – 203.7 million pounds, down 30 percent.
– Soybean production - 2.79 billion bushels, down 11 percent.
– Barley production – 236.7 million bushels, down 15 percent.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

Agricultural Land Values Highlights

WEST VIRGINIA -- Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged $1,600 per acre on January 1, 2005, up 6.7 percent or up $100 from 2004.

Cropland and pasture values rose by 6.8 and 7.8 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2004. Cropland values averaged $2,350 per acre and pasture values averaged $1,380 per acre on January 1, 2005, compared with $2,200 and $1,280 per acre, respectively, a year earlier.

UNITED STATES -- Farm real estate values averaged $1,510 per acre on January 1, 2005, up 11.0 percent from 2004. This is the largest percentage increase since 1981, when farm real estate values rose 11.1 percent from the previous year. The $150 per acre increase is the largest dollar increase on record. The previous record was 1980, when values climbed $109 per acre above the 1979 value.

Cropland and pasture values rose by 11.3 and 9.5 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2004. Cropland values averaged $1,970 per acre and pasture values averaged $694 per acre on January 1, 2005, compared with $1,770 and $634 per acre, respectively, a year earlier. The value of other land and buildings increased 11.9 percent.

The increase in farm real estate values was driven by a combination of factors, including low interest rates, high commodity production and prices, and strong demand for nonagricultural land uses. Nationally, survey data indicated that agricultural land with potential for immediate development (expected land use if sold) was valued at more than $6,050 per acre. The survey also indicated that agricultural land with potential for future development was valued at nearly $5,400 per acre, about $1,400 higher than the 2004 indication. Demand for farm real estate as an investment continued to be strong.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 8.2 percent in the Delta and Southern Plains regions to 13.2 percent in the Northeast and Southeast Regions. The highest farm real estate values were in the Northeast region, where urban influences have pushed the average value to $4,020 per acre. In the Corn Belt region, farm real estate values rose 10.9 percent, to $2,550 per acre. The Mountain region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, had

the lowest farm real estate value, at $599 per acre.

Cropland values in the Southeast region, at $2,960 had the highest average increase in cropland value, up $500 per acre. In the Corn Belt region cropland values rose 12.2 percent, to $2,750 per acre and the Lake States increased 9.4 percent, to $2,220 per acre. Together the Corn Belt and Lake States regions account for nearly one-third of the U.S. total cropland acres.

Pasture values in the Northeast and Appalachian regions had the highest average increase in pasture value, up $300 per acre. In the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Mountain, and Pacific regions (17 western states) pasture values per acre respectively increased 16.5 percent, 11.4 percent, 14.6 percent, and 9.8 percent. Together, the 17 western states account for about 87 percent of the total pasture acres on farms in the 48 States.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Pumpkins – Strawberries – Sweet Corn

Pumpkins: Herbicides were applied to 74 percent of the acreage planted to pumpkins in the following states: California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania. Insecticide, fungicide, and other chemical applications were made to 68, 76, and 1 percent of the acreage, respectively. Major herbicides used included clomazone, applied to 57 percent of the acreage; followed by halosulfuron, applied to 21 percent of the acres. The more commonly used insecticides were bifenthrin, endosulfan, and carbaryl, covering 27, 16, and 11 percent of the acreage, respectively. Chlorothalonil was the most widely used fungicide and was applied on 57 percent of the acreage. Myclobutanil was the next most utilized fungicide, applied to 23 percent of the acreage, followed by azoxystrobin on 21 percent of the acres. New York applied less pesticides than all other states surveyed.

Strawberries: Three program states (California, Florida, and Oregon) were surveyed for strawberries. Herbicides were used to treat 16 percent of the planted acreage. Glyphosate was the most used herbicide on 6 percent of the acreage, followed by napropamide, paraquat and simazine, all of which were applied to 4 percent of the acres. Insecticides were applied to 72 percent of the acres planted, with Bacillus thuringiensis and methomyl being the most used, treating 27 percent each. Abamectin, malathion, and spinosad were all applied to 23 percent of the acres. Fungicides were applied to 77 percent of the planted acreage. Captan was the most commonly applied fungicide, at 62 percent; followed by sulfur at 52 percent, and azoxystrobin and fenhexamid, both used to treat 29 percent of the acreage. Other chemicals were used to treat 44 percent of the planted acres. Methyl bromide and chloropicrin were the most commonly used other chemicals, at 33 and 32 percent, respectively.

Corn, Sweet: Thirteen states were included in the 2004 survey for fresh market sweet corn: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. Herbicides were applied to 79 percent of the fresh market sweet corn acreage. Atrazine was used on 67 percent of the acres, followed by S-Metolachlor on 43 percent. Insecticides were widely used, applied to 88 percent of the surveyed acreage. The most common insecticides applied were: lambda-cyhalothrin, on 59 percent of the acres; methomyl, applied to 46 percent of the acreage and applied more often than any other active ingredient in the insecticide class; and zeta-cypermethrin and chlorpyrifos, which were applied to 25 and 24 percent of the planted acres, respectively. Fungicides were used on 36 percent of the acreage. Propiconazole was used on 20 percent of the acreage and was applied less often than any other active ingredient in the fungicide class. Mancozeb was the second most commonly reported fungicide, used to treat 16 percent of the acreage.

CATTLE

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2005, totaled 104.5 million head, 1 percent above the 103.6 million on July 1, 2004 and 1 percent above the 103.9 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.8 million, were 1 percent above the 42.5 million on July 1, 2004 and slightly above the 42.7 million two years ago

Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 and up slightly from two years ago.

Milk cows, at 9.05 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 but down 1 percent from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2005 and the changes from July 1, 2004, are as follows:

- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 16.2 million, up 2 percent.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.0 million, up 4 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.7 million, up 3 percent.
- **Other heifers**, 7.5 million, down 1 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.4 million, up 1 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, up 2 percent.
- **Calves** under 500 pounds, 29.0 million, up slightly.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 12.0 million, up 2 percent.

Calf Crop Up Slightly

The 2005 calf crop is expected to be 37.8 million, up slightly from 2004 but down slightly from 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 1 percent from 2003.

SHEEP

July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Up 2 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2005, totaled 7.80 million head, 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.66 million head on July 1, 2005 was 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.14 million head, were 1 percent above last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.79 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 680,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.06 million head was comprised of 1.81 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 350,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 260,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 90,000.

The 2005 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.12 million head, up 1 percent from the 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2005 totaled 3.65 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2005.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 19.2 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.7 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) for 14.7 percent..

SEPTEMBER AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics will be conducting the September Agricultural Survey from August 31 - September 13. Representatives from our office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. Interviewers will be collecting data for the 2005 winter wheat crop and grain stocks.

The survey provides information necessary to make objective, reliable, and comprehensive estimates that are essential to an orderly agricultural marketing system, so that informed decisions can be made. Only a sample of farmers in West Virginia will be selected for the survey and those farmers will be notified by mail.

We depend upon the voluntary cooperation of those farmers selected in our sample. A high response rate will ensure that West Virginia agriculture is fully and accurately represented.

The results of this survey will be released on September 30, after 8:30 a.m. and will be published in the October edition of the Mountain State Reporter and on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv.

Livestock Slaughter
Chicken & Eggs
Turkeys Raised
Poultry Slaughter
US Mushroom Production
September Crop Production
September Ag Survey Results
Cattle on Feed

DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR **GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER**

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

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